

REMARKS

On May 8, 2003 a conference call was held between William J. Benman, Esq., acting on behalf of Colin M. Raufer, Esq., attorney for Applicants, Examiner Ken Parker and Steve Anderson, co-inventor of the above-identified Patent Application.

The purpose of the interview was to answer questions raised by the Examiner in the Office Action with respect to whether or not the invention was diffractive in nature as opposed to refractive.

Mr. Anderson explained to the Examiner the operation of the invention particularly with respect to the notion that it is providing an index of refraction across the liquid crystal array 20 of Fig. 4, which varies in response to an applied voltage. In this regard, Mr. Anderson indicated that for the purpose of illustration, it might be useful to consider the operation of a GRIN (grated index) device. The prior art clearly does not teach, disclose or suggest a system or method for steering a beam by refracting the beam in response to a control voltage as presently claimed.

Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
J. S. Anderson *et al.*

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